

**Views and experiences for the in-depth review of implementation of decisions
related to Invasive Alien Species
country: POLAND**

The present report covers IAS-related views and experiences in Poland between May 2005 and November 2006. Its aim is to supplement the Third National Report submitted to the CBD Secretariat in 2005 (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/world/pl/pl-nr-03-en.doc> ; points 45-56, Box XLVI). For this reason, the structure of the present report follows the structure of the previous one. For a broader perspective of IAS-related issues in Poland, please consult both reports.

Article 8(h) - Alien species

45. Has your country identified alien species introduced into its territory and established a system for tracking the introduction of alien species?	
a) No	
b) Yes, some alien species identified but a tracking system not yet established	
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	X

46. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) No	
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species.

The online database "*Alien species in Poland*" (<http://www.iop.krakow.pl/ias>) has been continuously developed, including adding new species and restructuring according to recommendations by Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN) and Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP). For approximately 40% of species in the database (including most alien species of major concern) risks are assessed.

The project of the Committee for Scientific Research entitled "Invasive alien species in Poland and conservation of biological diversity" will be finished in 2006. Its aim is a comprehensive assessment of threat constituted by alien species to the native biological diversity. The project is coordinated by two institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow (Institute of Nature Conservation and Institute of Botany). The plans for 2007 include publishing two books compiling the results of the project.

In 2005 a book "The Establishment and Spread of Alien Plant Species (Kenophytes) in the Flora of Poland" was published. The author, Dr Barbara Tokarska-Guzik, reviews risks posed by alien plants to native ecosystems, habitats and species.

There is an ongoing work in a number of academic centres to study the impact of different IAS in Poland. Recent projects include research into adverse effect of an Asiatic nematode *Asworthius sidemi* upon European bison (*Bison bonasus*), testing the level of hybridisation between Asiatic sika

deer (*Cervus nippon*) and native red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), and assessing the threat from IAS in Polish national and landscape parks.

47. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under consideration	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

For a past few years there has been a growing concern in Poland about the invasion of an alien butterfly, chestnut leaf miner (*Cameraria ohridella*), affecting horse chestnut trees (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). The invasion was widely publicized in media. As a result, many campaigns were organised to control the species in different places of the country and by different stakeholders (local governments, NGOs) with a remarkable level of participation from the general public.

48. In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed, or involved itself in, mechanisms for international cooperation, including the exchange of best practices? (decision V/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation	
c) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation	X
d) Yes, multilateral cooperation	

49. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species? (decision V/8)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the use of the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches in work on alien invasive species.

No amendments to the Third National Report.

50. Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but needs and priorities are being identified	
c) Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified)	X

Further comments on the identification of national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles.

No amendments to the Third National Report.

51. Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national programmes for applying the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles.	

52. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but review under way	
c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing	
e) Yes, some adjustments and development completed (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the review, adjustment or development of policies, legislation and institutions in light of the Guiding Principles.

No comprehensive assessment of legal regulations with respect to the issue of alien species has been performed. However, in spring 2006, the Minister of Environment invited all interested stakeholders to comment on the existing legislature pertaining to the conservation of nature, and to suggest any amendments. As a result, about 500 changes were proposed, including over 20 amendments in several acts related to invasive alien species, such as Nature Conservation Act (2004), Inland Fisheries Act (1985), and Marine Fisheries Act (2004), the Ordinance of the Minister of the Environment on the list of game species and close seasons for those animals (2001, as amended in 2004), and the Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of 2001 on fishing and conditions for raising, breeding and catching other organisms living in water. The proposed changes included e.g. including definitions of "alien species", "invasive alien species" and "introduction", as recommended by the CBD's "Guiding Principles for prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species". Other changes suggested shifting dates of close seasons for alien species for their more effective control. Also more stringent laws on introduction of alien fish for fisheries and plants for agriculture were put forward. In order to effectively enforce the provision that bans importation of alien species that are potentially dangerous for native biodiversity, it was suggested that in native legislature there should be a clear system of black, grey and white lists of alien species.

In 2005, the project "Developing the principles for dealing with alien species in the native flora and fauna" was completed at the Institute of Nature Conservation, PAS in Kraków. The project was financed by the Ministry of the Environment. The components of the final report are:

1. A list of alien species whose ranges in Poland are expanding.
2. Assessment of the spatial scale and expansion rate of alien species and their population number changes.
3. A list of alien species constituting threat to the native flora and fauna along with assessment of the scale and type of threat that those species pose to the native biological diversity.
4. Suggested methods for mitigating adverse effects of alien species in Poland, including methods for controlling population numbers of species adversely affecting the native flora and fauna, and possibilities of commercial use of alien species.
5. A list of alien species that have not been found in Poland yet which most probably will reach the Polish territory in the nearest future as their expansion is under way elsewhere in Europe and

assessment of possible threat they could pose to native biological diversity.

6. A list of cultivated alien plants (including energetic plants) and bred alien animals in Poland with threats they may pose for native biodiversity and possible means of mitigating these threats.

The outcome of this project may be used for developing a comprehensive strategy on IAS in Poland.

53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.

Procedures for giving consent to introduction of alien energetic plants have been discussed between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture.

54. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighbouring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) Yes, relevant collaborative programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, relevant programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	

Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighbouring countries.

Since 2004 Poland has been participating in the NOBANIS project (North European and Baltic Network on Invasive Species, <http://www.nobanis.org>), financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The database "Alien species in Poland" (<http://www.iop.krakow.pl/ias>) is an element of information an exchange system on alien species in the Nordic-Baltic region. Poland has also contributed to other elements of the NOBANIS system: detailed fact sheets on most invasive alien species in the region, the database of literature on IAS, and the database on national regulations on IAS. The NOBANIS system enables effective exchange of information on IAS between countries of the region.

Database "Alien Species in Poland" was also used to provide information to the EU-funded project DAISIE (Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe, <http://www.daisie.se>). The aim of the project is to provide European inventories of IAS and establish the basis for an early warning system.

In October 2006, options for cooperation between Poland and Ukraine on IAS-related issues were discussed at the "National Workshop on Invasive Alien Species in Ukraine", organised by the Bern Convention Secretariat.

55. Is your country developing capacity to use risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and incorporate such methodologies in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA)? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but programmes for this purpose are under development	
c) Yes, some activities for developing capacity in this field are being undertaken (please provide details below)	X

- d) Yes, comprehensive activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)

Further information on capacity development to address threats of invasive alien species.

The Institute of Nature Conservation PAS in Kraków is a partner in the EU-funded project ALARM (Assessing Large-scale Risks with tested Methods, <http://www.alarmproject.net>). One of the aims of this project is to develop risk assessment procedures to address threats of IAS. These procedures are developed for all taxa and will be a useful tool for all EU countries.

56. Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures and tools are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.

Ongoing scientific research on alien species in Poland is financed by the funds of the Committee for Scientific Research. The Ministry of the Environment financed the project "Developing the principles for dealing with species alien to the native flora and fauna" (completed in July 2005).

Box XLI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

The measures taken in Poland to resolve the problem of alien species follow not only from obligations related to ratification of CBD by Poland (Article 8(h), "2010 Target", "Millennium Development Goals", but also other conventions in which the issue is the priority. That contributes to achievement of targets specified in the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity: co-operation in all respective instruments and international processes is promoted to enhance policy consistency.

Those Conventions include The Convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention, <http://www.carpathianconvention.org>). Article 4.1 of this Convention explicitly refers to the need of reducing IAS problem by the Parties. In February 2006 Poland ratified the Convention and in June 2006 it entered into force, thus establishing a new instrument for addressing biological invasions in the country.

Poland's cooperation with Bern Convention included participation of the Polish delegate in the "National Workshop on Invasive Alien Species in Ukraine", organised by the Bern Convention Secretariat in Kiev in October 2006.